



"Which elevator did you say?"

Earl Mangum, veteran chief of elevator maintenance for Duke University, answers a "trouble call" in his workshop in the hospital basement near "old number 7." Mr. Mangum makes two suggestions to such callers: (1) identify the elevator by number; (2) leave your name in case more information is needed.

(Duke photo by Sparks)

## "Old Number 7" and Its Offspring

How many elevators are there in the Duke Medical Center—21; and dumbwaiters? and conveyors? and subveyors (they go down)? And how many such units in the whole University? This information, together with "when they were oiled last," is kept in the workshop where Earl Mangum and his staff of three: Russell Hayes, Owen Lockamy, and Thomas Pruitt, have their headquarters. Appropriately, this workshop is in the hospital basement near "old number 7." "Old number 7" is the official designation for the elevator in the Medical School building—the one with the independent turn of mind. Mr. Mangum points out that though "old number 7" is the same chronological age as the other four original elevators, actually it is older in point of service. The construction crews used it to haul up supplies (building

stone, tile and the like), while the hospital was being built.

The five original elevators, purchased in 1929, cost \$30,000 each. Today the average price of an elevator is \$45,000. These figures do not include the cost of the shaft.

The elevator maintenance crew, although it has headquarters in the hospital, is responsible for all elevators and other conveyors in the University as a whole. Understandably the heaviest use occurs in the hospital. A counter put on the elevator by Howland about ten years ago recorded 150 starts and stops per hour. This has not increased markedly because that figure was near-capacity use. The two elevators by Welch now challenge the one by Howland for title of "the busiest." "Old number 7" can travel 100 feet per minute; those in the rest of the hospital 350 feet per minute;

those in the '57 addition and the new building 400 feet per minute.

Two problems plague the maintenance staff. First, the greatest wear and tear (and this is a "firing offense") comes when a passenger trips the red emergency toggle switch simply to by-pass a floor. Second, when both the up and down buttons are pushed, the car stops twice. This is needless wear on the unit.

Earl Mangum was first employed at Duke in 1927 to work on the East Campus heating plant. The same year he moved over to the hospital site and cut the stakes to lay out Duke Hospital. Eventually he was put in charge of elevator maintenance. At that time he had no staff, and, when he needed help, took it where he could find it. Today when the Maintenance Department needs someone to supervise the moving of heavy equipment (air-conditioning units to the roof, for example), they call on Mr. Mangum. Most recently he supervised placing of the new hyperbaric chamber.

Reminiscing, Mr. Mangum commented, "In the old days" the elevators carried signs: "Faculty Only."

### Thought of the Week

Too many people stop looking for work when they get a job.

### InterCom

Published by Duke University Medical Center and Duke Hospital Auxiliary

Evelyn S. Stead, Editor

Patricia Wynn, Feature Editor

#### COMMITTEE

Elon H. Clark  
Charles H. Frenzel  
George B. Kantner  
Ethel T. Macduff  
Norman K. Nelson  
Nina Waite

Mailing address: Box 2895, Duke Hospital, Durham, N. C.